

## ***Information Review & Release (IRR) News for 21 - 25 June 2004 Executive Summary***

### **Future Planning Calendar**

(U//~~ATUO~~) **9 July 2004: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP):** Next Liaisons' meeting at NARA in Washington, DC.

(U//~~ATUO~~) **27 July 2004: Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP):** Next Principals' meeting at EEOB in Washington, DC.

(U//~~ATUO~~) **31 December 2006:** The Automatic Declassification Date per Executive Order 12958, as amended.

### **Overview of IRR Activities--Last Week**

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#### **(U//~~ATUO~~) FOIA Requests**

##### **(U//~~ATUO~~) Interest in 'CIA-Developed' Suicide Pill**

(U//~~ATUO~~) A Florida requester read that "the CIA developed a suicide pill to preclude disclosure of secret information and torture by an enemy. The pill was designed to be small, easily concealed, easily accessed, easily swallowed, quick acting, non-reversible and without pain. Please provide a copy of the document that reflects the name, chemical properties and manufacturer of the subject pill."

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##### **(U//~~ATUO~~) Requesting CIA's 'Red Cell' Team Report**

(U//~~ATUO~~) The National Security Archive is requesting a copy of "the three-page research paper, 'Trying to Anticipate the Next Attack,' delivered to President George W. Bush on September 25, 2001." It adds that "the report was compiled by a Red Cell team, that was set up by Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet and Deputy Director of Central Intelligence John McLaughlin. [This document is referenced in the attached pages from Bob Woodward's *Bush at War*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 2002 (p.132-133)]."

- The FOIA case manager accepted this request,

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*Editor: The Archive supports its request by adding: "...Mr. Woodward's description of the document (attached) makes it apparent that he was physically given access to the document, and that furthermore all the material in his book was cleared for publication by the White House....FOIA case law clearly maintains, 'Either all requesters have access, or none do...'. Please see U.S. Dept. of the Air Force v. Federal Labor Relations Authority, 838F.2d 229 (7th Cir. 1988)."*

~~ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY~~**(U//~~ATUO~~) Request for Tenet/Pavitt 'Secrets Briefing' Records**

(U//~~ATUO~~) The Woodward book, *Bush at War*, also sparked National Security Archive's interest in receiving all records pertaining to any meetings from January 2001 between DCI George Tenet, DD/Operations Jim Pavitt and President-elect George W. Bush, Vice President-elect Dick Cheney, and Condoleezza Rice. The request references attached pages from *Bush at War* (p.132-133).

- As above, the FOIA case manager accepted this request, [REDACTED]

*Editor: Excerpts from the pages cited above include: ...Tenet and Pavitt told him [the president-elect] "that bin Laden and his network were a 'tremendous threat' which was 'immediate.' ...the bin Laden network presented a difficult, elusive target. President Clinton had approved five separate intelligence orders, called Memoranda of Notification (MON), authorizing covert action to attempt to destroy bin Laden and his network, disrupt and preempt their terrorist operations. No authority had been granted outright to kill or assassinate bin Laden."*

**(U//~~ATUO~~) Seeking Any Files on Charles Jordan's Murder**

(U//~~ATUO~~) A journalist from the weekly national Jewish newspaper, *Forward*, requests "the release of any available files on the murder case of Charles Jordan. Jordan, an official for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, was found dead in Prague in August 1967 and his death has never been solved. The *Forward* recently learned that an American citizen received information about the murder from an individual in Prague in September 1967 and reported it to a CIA officer in Philadelphia." The requester is particularly interested in "any available files on what happened with this tip from the American citizen, but would like any files on the CIA investigation into Jordan's death, and any files the CIA kept on Jordan before his death."

- The FOIA case manager located three previously released records on this subject in the Management of Officially Released Information (MORI) database, and sent them to the requester. [REDACTED]

**(U//~~ATUO~~) Request for CIA Records Search Tool**

(U//~~ATUO~~) A professor in the Department of Political Science, University of California, is asking for an "electronic copy (as a hard drive, CD-ROM, or other electronic storage device) of the CIA's declassified documents database known as the CIA Records Search Tool (CREST)"....which is currently available for public use at the National Archives at College Park, Maryland. He states that this material is being sought for scholarly research purposes with the university's support.

**(U//~~ATUO~~) CIA Declassification Center****(U//~~ATUO~~) Equities Recognition Briefing for NARA Personnel**

(U//~~ATUO~~) On 22 June, the CIA Declassification Center (CDC) provided a three-hour briefing on "Recognizing CIA Equities in State Department Records" to about 25 NARA declassification personnel, at their request. This useful briefing evoked many interesting questions, and a second session for an additional 25 personnel was delivered 24 June. This same briefing previously was presented to about 70 State reviewers [REDACTED]

**(U//~~ATUO~~) Presidential Libraries**

(U//~~ATUO~~) June 21-23: [REDACTED] C/Declassification Review and Referral Branch, and two contractors, visited the Johnson Presidential Library to install a new, classified LaserFiche system (similar to the CREST system at NARA)—complete with new hardware and software. In addition, they loaded 73,000 pages of presidential material from the Remote Archive Capture (RAC) program into the system. [REDACTED]

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(U//~~ATUO~~) From The Archives:

**(U//~~ATUO~~) An East German Potemkin Village**

(U//~~ATUO~~) A January 1954 Current Intelligence Bulletin (CIB) reports that "'huge quantities' of food and textile goods are being brought from the USSR and Satellites into the Soviet sector of Berlin for sale and display during the four-power conference, according to army officials in Germany. Instructions have been issued to state-owned stores and consumer cooperatives to display goods prominently and create the appearance of plenty. A less reliable report claimed that false brick fronts were being constructed to cover the ruins along the main thoroughfares of central Berlin."

- *Comment: As part of their massive propaganda efforts, Soviet bloc countries went to great lengths to hide their true state of affairs –as evidenced by this item –which brings to mind the famous Potemkin village during Catherine the Great's reign. Soviets knowledgeable about their own propaganda efforts apparently suspected the US of similar behavior. One US military attache, who accompanied visiting Soviet military delegations to the US during the late-1980s, noted that one Soviet general insisted on stopping multiple times for unscheduled visits to US military commissaries. This Soviet general could not believe that the abundance he saw at stops on the official schedule portrayed a true picture.*

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**(U//~~ATUO~~) Arab Consensus on Terrorism**

(U//~~ATUO~~) From the Ford Library collection comes a September 1976 US Embassy Cairo cable titled, "'Arab States Grappling With Terrorism Policy.' During an interview with an Egyptian editor, Foreign Minister Fahmy claimed earlier this month Arab foreign ministers had discussed counter-measures against terrorism and had reached a 'full understanding of the terrorist issue.' The issue is to be placed on the agenda either at the October 14-17 Arab foreign ministers meeting or at the subsequent Arab summit. Fahmy noted that there was a general Arab consensus that terrorism has exceeded its limit and the foreign ministers agreed to tackle the issue even before the previously agreed 1977 schedule. US Embassy Cairo comments that the foreign ministers' discussion was designed to arrive at a united Arab position for the upcoming UN debate on terrorism. The fact that terrorism is scheduled to be discussed again shortly by the Arab ministers suggests that a unified position has not yet been hammered out. The key question for the ministers will be how to distinguish between terrorists and Arab 'liberation' fighters."

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